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Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04096

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI
SUBJECT: US REPRESENTATION AT ROYAL COLLEGE OF
DEFENSE STUDIES

1. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, FCO PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY PALLISER SAID THAT HMG WAS CONCERNED AT THE ABSENCE OF THE NOMINATION OF A STATE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE 1979 ROYAL COLLEGE OF DEFENSE STUDIES (RCDS) COURSE. HE HANDED THE AMBASSADOR A SPEAKING NOTE, BELOW, SUMMARIZING THE BACKGROUND AND THE UK VIEW.

2. RCDS CONTINUES TO BE A LEADING INSTITUTION FOR DEFENSE STUDIES AND THE ADDITION OF COMMONWEALTH AND

..
OTHER NATIONAL STUDENTS TO THE COURSE HAS HEIGHTENED THE POSSIBILITIES FOR US PARTICIPANTS TO CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE US BY RISING LEADERS IN THE COURSE. HENCE, WE SEE CONSIDERABLE MERIT IN PLACING A STATE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE IN THE COURSE BEGINNING IN 1979, IF THAT CAN BE ARRANGED. WE WOULD BE GLAD TO ASSIST IN ANY NEGOTIATIONS THAT MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO WORK OUT AN AGREEMENT THAT WOULD PERMIT FSO PARTICIPATION IN THE
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COURSE.

3. BEGIN TEXT
SPEAKING NOTE
"THE COMMANDANT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF DEFENCE STUDIES AND THE FCO ARE CONCERNED AT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THERE WILL BE NO STATE DEPARTMENT STUDENT ON THE

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1979 COURSE AT THE COLLEGE. WE WANT TO SEE THE STATE DEPARTMENT REPRESENTED THERE AND WE KNOW THAT THEY, FOR THEIR PART, ARE ALSO KEEN TO SEND SOMEONE.

"THE STUMBLING BLOCK IS FINANCE. WE HAVE BEEN OBLIGED TO TELL THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT IT WILL COST THEM ABOUT 4,500 POUNDS TO SEND A STUDENT; THEY DO NOT THINK THAT THEY CAN AFFORD SUCH A CHARGE. THE BACK-GROUND TO THIS IS THAT BEFORE 1977 OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAD A RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENT UNDER WHICH ALL DEFENCE TRAINING CHARGES WERE WAIVED. BUT WHEN THE US CONGRESS DECIDED IN 1976 THAT FULL COSTS SHOULD BE CHARGED FOR ALL FOREIGN TRAINING IN THE USA, THE MINISTRY OF DEFENC WERE OBLIGED TO RECIPROCATE. SINCE THEN THE TWO COUNTRIES RATIFIED THE RELEVANT NATO STANDARDISATION AGREEMENT (STANAG 6002) AND ARE COMMITTED TO CHARGING EACH OTHER, AS WELL AS ALL NATO MEMBERS, NO MORE THAN SO-CALLED "EXTRA COSTS." BUT THAT STILL MEANS A CHARGE FOR THE RCDS COURSE OF ABOUT 4,500 POUNDS.

"WE HAVE SUGGESTED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT THE BEST WAY ROUND THE PROBLEM WOULD BE TO REINSTATE THE PREVIOUS RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERN-MENTS. UNFORTUNATELY, IT SEEMS AT THE MOMENT THAT THE CHANCES OF REACHING AGREEMENT ON SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT IN TIME FOR ANY STUDENT ON THE 1979 COURSE ARE SMALL. THE CONFIDENTIAL

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STATE DEPARTMENT SEEM TO THINK THAT IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO PERSUADE THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO NEGOTIATE A WAIVER OF CHARGES WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE; MEANWHILE THEY, THE STATE DEPARTMENT, NEED TO TAKE DECISIONS ON THE TRAINING COURSES TO WHICH THEY SHOULD SEND STUDENTS IN 1979.

"ALL THIS IS A MATTER OF CONCERN TO US. BOTH THE COMMANDANT AND THE FCO BELIEVE THAT THE PRESENCE OF A STATE DEPARTMENT STUDENT ON THE RCDS COURSE IS OF GREAT VALUE BOTH TO THE UNITED STATES AND OURSELVES. WE SHALL BE MOST DISAPPOINTED IF NO-ONE CAN COME. WE SHOULD THEREFORE BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR ANY HELP THE US AMBASSADO CAN GIVE US. WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO SPEED UP THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS IN SOME WAY SO THAT THE FORMER ARRANGEMENT CAN BE RESTORED IN TIME? IF THE US AMBAS-SADOR CAN SECURE SUCH A SPEEDING-UP IN WASHINGTON, WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO ENSURE THAT THE MATTER IS HANDLED EQUALLY QUICKLY IN LONDON." END TEXT

BREWSTER

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